

The Great Gatsby Discussion Outline

The concepts listed below are organized by chapter and designed to help you examine key elements of the novel while reading, and to help you study after reading. For each concept, please list important information presented in the novel so far. Each concept will be discussed in class.

Chapter 1:

Who is the narrator? What is the point of view?

- Point of View:

What advice does Nick's father give him about criticizing anyone? What does it mean?

How did that affect Nick's outlook of life?

How does Nick Carraway describe Gatsby's personality?

What was Nick's final evaluation of Gatsby and what did he find held him back?

What is Nick's background? Financial and family

Why was Nick restless? What job did he have?

What year does Nick move out East?

Where does Nick take up residence?

What is the history between Nick and the Buchanans?

Daisy Buchanan:

Tom Buchanan:

How many kids do Tom and Daisy have? Male or female, names.

What does Nick do for a living?

Jordan Baker:

Is Tom racist? Use an example from the book to back up your answer.

What conflict arises between Tom and Daisy? What special interest does Tom have in New York? Relationship, descriptions, situation?

How does Daisy's attitude and tone toward Nick shift when they are alone?

What do you think about them (Buchanan's) as parents? What does Daisy think about her offspring?

How did Jordan and Daisy meet?

What is Gatsby doing at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2:

Setting:

What is the Valley of Ashes? What do you think it represents?

Who or what is Doctor T. J. Eckleburg?

George Wilson:

Tom's car

Myrtle Wilson:

Cover story for Myrtle

What does Myrtle buy? What do the purchases say about her?

Apartment

Catherine

Tom and Myrtle disappeared?

McKees

Myrtle's transformation (hauteur)

The rumor about Gatsby

What lie does Tom tell these people about why he can't get a divorce from Daisy

George's wedding suit

What happens between Tom and Myrtle at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 3

Describe Gatsby's party: People who attended, behaviors, what it looked like, what Gatsby provided.

Why did Nick attend this particular party?

List the rumors about Gatsby as they are uncovered.

The man in the "owl-eyed spectacles"?

Description of Gatsby: (Seems to be two versions of him, explain)

Accident

How does Nick describe Jordan and their relationship? Is she honest or dishonest?

What does Nick claim about himself at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 4:

What does the guest list description reveal about East and West Egg?

What was Klipspringer's nickname and how did he get it?

Gatsby's car

What does Gatsby tell Nick on their drive? How did Gatsby's persona change?

What does Gatsby carry with him to help convince people who he was? Does Nick believe the things he tells him?

Meyer Wolfsheim:

Why does Gatsby disappear?

What story did Gatsby tell Jordan at the party? Who does Daisy seem to love when she gets married?

Why does Jordan say Gatsby bought his house?

What is Gatsby's request?

Chapter 5:

Initial exchange between Nick and Gatsby: What does Gatsby offer Nick for setting up the tea party?

Daisy and Gatsby meet: What are their initial reactions? How do they change in half an hour?

How does Gatsby's story change?

What does Gatsby say about living alone?

What was Klipspringer nickname and how did he get it?

Why does Gatsby throw the shirts?

Gatsby's three states in the chapter:

The green light as an "enchanted object":

Does Daisy live up to Gatsby's dream and expectation?

Chapter 6:

What caused James Gatz's transformation?

What is James Gatz's story? Who was he what was his background? How did he become Jay Gatsby?

Why does the narrator say he tells the background story?

Gatsby and Tom meet. Tension is high....why?

Tom and Daisy attend one of Gatsby's parties together and they seem to be competing...how?

What is Gatsby's ultimate plan/dream pertaining to Tom and Daisy?

What does Tom insist toward the end of the chapter? What is Daisy's reply?

What are Nick and Gatsby's differing views on repeating the past?

Chapter 7:

Why do the parties stop?

How has Gatsby's and Daisy's relationship progressed?

Does their meeting in Daisy's house draw parallels to Tom and Myrtle's meeting in Wilson's garage?

Daisy's Child: What is Daisy's relationship with her? What is Gatsby's reaction?

How do Daisy and Gatsby reveal their relationship to Tom?

What is Daisy's voice described as "full of," according to Gatsby? What is her charm?

Why doesn't Tom believe Gatsby is an Oxford man?

Wilson and Tom exchange:

Who does Myrtle think Jordan is in the car?

What are Gatsby's and Tom's statements toward each other about Daisy?

What is Daisy's reaction to the argument? Who does she ask to take her back to Long Island?

How did Gatsby make his money?

What happened to Myrtle?

What is Tom's reaction to the incident?

Why did Myrtle run to the car?

What scene does Nick see at the kitchen table?

Who killed Myrtle?

Chapter 8:

Why is “Jay Gatsby” now in quotation marks?

In what ways does Nick’s attitude toward Gatsby shift between his actions and description of him, and his proclamations of disapproval?

Does Nick seem to like Gatsby? Does he say he likes Gatsby?

Dr. Eckleberg’s eyes:

What does Wilson think happened to Myrtle?

Who is the “ashen figure” coming out of the trees? What happens?

Did Gatsby believe Daisy would call? Does he still have hope?

Chapter 9:

How does Catherine show “character”?

Why is the version of the story given to police and newspapers never corrected?

Nick describes himself being on Gatsby’s side, and taking on the world with Gatsby. How does this contrast to the way Nick says he feels about Gatsby?

What happens to Tom and Daisy? How are they described?

What is in the book that Gatsby's dad shows Nick? Why is it significant?

Who attends the ceremony?

How did Wilson know to get to Gatsby's house?

Does anyone blame Daisy?

Final meditation on green light.